

Adams County
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Remember 'As Unto Me' —

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Corning was a GREAT PLACE a week ago Friday Night. Main Street Corning's Fiesta was about community - its history - its people - its vitality - its heart.

Unfortunately, it's usually easier to focus on the negatives just turn on the television for five minutes). "We don't have enough jobs." "Nobody cares." "We're too small." "We're too poor." "I don't belong." With this outlook, it's easy to get down on life. It's easy to 'dis' other people and their intentions. It makes it easy to not get involved. We all have minutes of negativity, and if we let it, it can feed on itself and grow larger.

When those moments hit me, I have a plaque in my house entitled, "As Unto Me" by Roy Lessin, that I read. Its about giving your all to the Lord. I'd like to paraphrase it as we think about our Adams community.

Do It Anyway....

Others may not notice your efforts or give you recognition for something you've done. The credit may even go to someone else. Do it anyway - for our community is stronger for your efforts.

There maybe times when a job you have done will be rejected. Something you have prepared may be delayed or canceled. Do it anyway - for the journey has given us lessons to be learned.

You may do your very best, but have your labors fail. You may sacrifice time and money to help and receive no words of appreciation. Do it anyway - for you have shown our community generosity and helped develop community spirit.

There may be times when you go out of your way to include oth-

ers and later have them ignore you. Do it anyway - for you have opened a doorway for partnership and stronger communications.

You may speak the truth but be considered wrong by others. You may do something with good intentions and be completely misunderstood. Do it anyway - for challenging others and ourselves leads to growth.

There may be times when a commitment will mean sacrificing a personal pleasure. Do it anyway - for it is in each of us giving a little of ourselves that we create a true community.

We have so much potential in being a GREAT PLACE. We need to look past our individual limitations, prejudices, negativity, injustices and look forward together with vision offering that part of ourselves that can help build a brighter future.

Governor Vilsack has issued a challenge to Iowa - to us - "Create Great Places" - schedule fun - celebrate your heritage - define your niche - determine your future - lead with your heart energize yourself and each other - Create a Great Place where people will want to visit - play shop - live.

Schedule fun - How about going outside your door, your store, your car - wherever you are at 3 p.m. each day and do a two minute dance in the street - on the sidewalk - in your yard - on your front porch. Take in a ball game and cheer on our youth.

Celebrate our heritage - agriculture, racing, mining, Icaria... The list goes on. Which part of Adams County's heritage tickles your roots? How can you be a part of the celebration?

Define our niche - arts and artisans, hospitality, stewardship. What can tantalize people to come see Adams County and leave a few dollars at the door?

Determine our future - We need to think creatively; challenge our conceptions; look forward five to 10 years; act on a vision: be



bold; support each other; build together.

Lead with our hearts - Care about each other - give a little of our time, our energy, our resources, and ourselves. Ask, "How can I be a part of this?"

Energize yourself and each other. Don't wait for someone else. Pat yourself on your back for being involved. Congratulate others. Appreciate what each person brings to the community. Thank them. Get involved.

Let's work together and take up this challenge - Lets schedule fun. Let's celebrate our heritage. Lets define our niche. Lets determine our future. Lets lead with our hearts. Lets energize each other and ourselves. Lets start today. Adams County is a GREAT PLACE - Lets make it better.

Lets lead the dance. See you on the street today at three!

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